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# THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

ON EARTH PEACE . . . NATION SHALL NOT LIFT UP SWORD AGAINST NATION, NEITHER SHALL THEY LEARN WAR ANY MORE.

NEW SERIES.

BOSTON, JANUARY, 1869.

No. 1.

## NEED OF INFORMATION ON PEACE.

No man can be expected to take much interest in what he does not understand, or acquire much knowledge of what he does not examine. The first want is information; and on the question of Peace there has been, and still is, a strange lack, even among persons of high culture and general intelligence on kindred topics.

We speak from some experience, as well as from long and extensive observation. We were profoundly ignorant on the subject till near the close of our studies for the Christian ministry, when we chanced to come across a stray number of the *Friend of Peace*, and found at a glance over its pages that it opened a wide field of thought, and furnished a multitude of facts and views quite new to us. We said at once to ourselves, 'we must examine this subject. It is clearly one deeply interesting, and vastly important alike to the temporal and the spiritual interests of mankind; a cause springing directly out of the heart of the gospel, embedded in its principles, and saturated with its spirit. We cannot afford to remain ignorant as we have been on a question so linked in a thousand ways with the cause of Christ, and the general welfare of the world.'

Such was the origin of our interest in Peace. We had no special aim, but merely set ourselves at our leisure to examine it with such care as we think every Christian, as well as every preacher of the gospel in particular, should do in his endeavor to ascertain and do his duty. We had no thought of ever entering the service of a Peace Society; that was an afterthought reluctantly forced upon us in view of its great importance, and the strange neglect of it by the mass of the Christian community. We merely investigated the subject as every Christian should; and the result was, as we think it would be with every honest, earnest Christian inquirer, such a view of its importance as has ever since clinched upon us an ever-increasing conviction of its claims on all the followers of the Prince of Peace. We had thought of going on a mission to the heathen; but here we found a service not less necessary, and far more neglected, in which scarce one could be found to enlist, where hundreds were ready to embark in the popular cause of foreign missions.

Now, we think that a thorough acquaintance with the subject would lead the mass of Christians to view the cause of Peace in essentially the same light that we did then; and hence we wish to furnish them as widely as possible

with the means of familiarizing its chief facts, arguments, and illustrations. We would fain bring the subject, as matter alike of duty and of interest, home to every Christian, patriot and philanthropist. It ought to be, and in time must and will be; and when it is, all good men of intelligence will at length regard this cause as second in importance only to that of the world's evangelization.

May we not, then, hope for the aid of such persons in spreading the intelligence we have at hand on this subject? In our periodical, and in our volumes and tracts, will be found a large amount of information on the wide range of topics embraced in this cause. For these we seek a general diffusion through the land. We cannot do this ourselves; and we earnestly hope that good men, especially Christian ministers of every name, will help us in this work, as they easily can in many ways. Can you not secure colporteurs for our volumes and subscribers to our periodical? Can you not yourself subscribe for the latter, and purchase some of the former? Can you not get them introduced into the sabbath-school?

## PEACE PERIODICALS.

No enterprise, whether of benevolence or reform, has relied more than that of Peace on the press in the prosecution of its work. It has always had its distinctive organ, both here and in England, for the dissemination of its views, and has perhaps depended more on this than any other instrumentality.

The cause of Peace in modern times began very much with the press. In December, 1814, a few months before the close of our last war with England, NOAH WORCESTER's celebrated pamphlet, *A Solemn Review of the Custom of War*, was published anonymously in Boston; in the December following the Massachusetts Peace Society was organized, only six months before the London Peace Society; and the next month Dr. Worcester sent forth his first number of the *Friend of Peace*, and continued it, though with little aid of any sort, for twelve years, until at the age of seventy he retired from public life, and left his mantle as a peace reformer to fall on WILLIAM LADD. In response to this call, Mr. Ladd set himself at work to establish in 1828 the American Peace Society, and forthwith issued the *Harbinger of Peace* as its monthly organ. In three years its name was changed into that of *Calumet*, and for the next thirty-three years it has appeared in octavo form under the title of *Advocate of Peace*.